С	ase 3:08-cv-01057-J-WMC	Document 6	Filed 03/17/	2008	Page 1 of 9
1 2 3 4 5	David S. Blau (Bar No. 16) David M. Morrow (Bar No. 16) Law Offices of David S. Economic (Bar No. 16) Los Angeles, California (Bar No. 16) Los Angeles, California (Bar No. 16) (310) 410-1900 phone (Bar No. 1901) (310) 410-1901 fax (Bar No. 1901) david@blaulaw.net  Attorneys for Defendant American Safety Indemnia	o. 175776) Blau, P.C. 210 0045			
7 8	UNIT	TED STATES	DISTRICT	COU	₹Ť
9		ENTRAL DIS			
10		,			
11	ACCEPTANCE INSURA	ANCE	Case No.	CV08-	01577 GPS (AGRx)
12	COMPANY, Plainti	ff f	DEFEND SAFETY		AMERICAN MATTY
13	VS.	LL,	1	NY'S I	NOTICE OF MOTION TO
14	AMERICAN SAFETY RI	SK	MEMOR	ER FO	OR CONVENIENCE; JM OF POINTS AND
15	RÉTENTION GROUP, IN AMERICAN SAFETY IN	IC., and IDEMNITY			S [28 U.S.C. 1404(a)]
16	COMPANY, Defend	onto	Declaration	Serve on of Je	d Concurrently With ean Fisher]
17 18	Detend	ants.	Date: Time:	April 1:30 p	14, 2008
19			Place: Judge:	Court	room 7 George P. Schiavelli
20				RGUM	ENT REQUESTED
TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD HEREIN PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., or as so thereafter as counsel may be heard in Courtroom 7 of the above-entitled cor located at 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, Defendant AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY will and hereby does me pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1404(a) to transfer this action to the United S District Court for the Southern District of California, for the convenience					:30 p.m., or as soon above-entitled court, Defendant and hereby does move on to the United States
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## **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

Defendant AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY ("ASIC") respectfully submits the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of its Motion to Transfer this action to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

### I. INTRODUCTION

This is an equitable contribution lawsuit between insurers which has virtually no connection to the Central District of California, and has been filed in the County of Los Angeles solely because Plaintiff ACCEPTANCE INSURANCE COMPANY's ("Acceptance" or "Plaintiff") counsel is located there, which is irrelevant to venue considerations. As is evident from the documents produced in this matter in state court prior to its removal, the witnesses and documents relevant to the claims at issue are located in San Diego, California, within the Southern District of California. Essentially no evidence is located in Los Angeles County, but to the extent that any "evidence" is located outside the Southern District of California, it can easily be obtained through the use of subpoenas issued by and through the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

The convenience of Defendant ASIC and other witnesses located in San Diego, California, dictate a transfer to the District Court for the Southern District of California, while the convenience of the Nebraska Plaintiff would be unaffected by such a transfer.

Defendant ASIC brings this motion to transfer this action on the grounds of *forum non conveniens*, as codified in 28 U.S.C. 1404(a), and respectfully requests that this action be transferred to the District Court for the Southern District of California, a forum where this case could (and should) have been brought originally, and where all Defendants and their agents acted.

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### II. STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

## A. Factual Background

The Defendants' and Witnesses' Residences, and Location of the Events Giving Rise to the Claim:

As alleged in the First Amended Complaint, the two (2) Defendants, ASIC and AMERICAN SAFETY RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC. ("ASRRG"), are Georgia corporations. (See First Amended Complaint, Paras. 2 and 3.)

As further alleged in the First Amended Complaint, Defendants acted through their agent and claims administrator, American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. (See First Amended Complaint, Paras. 18 and 21.)

American Safety Insurance Services, Inc.'s office which administered the underlying claim is located in San Diego, California. (Fisher Dec., Para. 4.) American Safety Insurance Services, Inc.'s employee principally responsible for handling of the underlying claim, Jean Fisher, and other potential witnesses affiliated with American Safety Insurance Services, Inc., are located in San Diego, California. (Fisher Dec., Para. 4.) American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. maintains those business records which are relevant to the underlying claim in San Diego, California. (Fisher Dec., Para. 5.) American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. does not maintain an office or employees in Los Angeles, within the Central District of California. (Fisher Dec., Para. 6.)

Plaintiff is a Nebraska corporation. (See First Amended Complaint, Para. 1.)
Accordingly, the alleged conduct of the Defendants in this matter occurred in San Diego, California. (First Amended Complaint, Para. 18 and 21.)

# 2. The Other Current Litigation Brought By Plaintiff Against ASIC in San Diego, California:

On February 1, 2008, Plaintiff filed another equitable contribution action against ASIC in San Diego, California. (See Exhibit "1" to Fisher Dec.) This action is styled <u>Acceptance Insurance Company v. American Safety Indemnity</u>

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Company, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2008-00077126-CU-IC-CTL, on February 1, 2008.

#### Procedural Background В.

On May 22, 2006, Plaintiff filed the instant action in the Los Angeles County Superior Court (Case No. BC352725), alleging causes of action for equitable contribution and declaratory relief. On February 7, 2007, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint naming ASIC as a defendant for the first time. On March 6, 2008, Defendant ASIC filed a Notice of Removal of the action from the Los Angeles County Superior Court to the United States District Court, Central District of California.

### III. ARGUMENT

#### **Authority for the Transfer of Venue** Α.

28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) provides,

"A civil action wherein jurisdiction is founded only on diversity of citizenship may, except as otherwise provided by law, be brought only in (1) a judicial district where any defendant resides . . . , (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred ..., or (3) a judicial district in which the defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction at the time the action is commenced, if there is no district in which the action may otherwise be brought." (Emphasis added.)

In this case, jurisdiction is predicated solely upon the diversity statute. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

The doctrine of forum non conveniens, codified in 28 U.S.C. §1404(a) provides:

"For the convenience of the parties and witnesses, in the

interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where it might have been brought."

Further, Section 1406(a) provides: "The district court of a district in which is filed a case laying venue in the wrong division or district shall dismiss, or if it be in the interests of justice, transfer such case to any district or division in which it could have been brought." This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action to order a transfer. Bookout v. Beck, 354 F.2d 823, 825 (9th Cir. 1965).

Under section 1404(a), courts have broad discretion to examine the convenience of the witnesses, the convenience of the parties, and the interest of justice. Lopez Perez v. Hufstedler, 505 F. Supp. 39, 41 (D.DC 1980); E. & J. Gallo Winery v. F. & P.S.P.A., 899 F.Supp. 465, 466 (E.D.Cal. 1994). In determining the convenience of the witnesses, courts typically evaluate where the witnesses are located, and the importance of their testimony in relation to the issues in the case. Harrison v. Union Pacific R.R. Co., 45 F.Supp.2d 680, 684 (E.D. Mo. 1999); Brandon Apparel Group, Inc. v. Quitman Mfg. Co., Inc., 42 F.Supp.2d 821, 834 (N.D.Il. 1999).

In evaluating the interests of justice to determine whether transfer is appropriate, preventing a waste of time and money weighs in favor of transfer. Van Dusen v. Barrack, 376 U.S. 612, 643 (1964). Courts will also consider: (1) the relative ease of access to proof in the new forum and transferee forum [In re Horseshoe Entertainment, 305 F.3d 354, 358 (5th Cir. 2002); Van Dusen, supra, 376 U.S. at 616]; and (2) the relative means of the parties [Goldstein v. Rusco Industries, Inc., 351 F. Supp. 1314, 1318 (E.D.N.Y. 1972)].

The availability of compulsory process in the transferee forum is also a consideration in the transfer analysis. Reed v. Fina Oil & Chem. Co., 995 F. Supp. 705, 714 (D.Me. 1996).

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# B. The Convenience of the Parties and Witnesses Mandate Transfer of this Action to the Southern District of California

Defendant ASIC is alleged to have acted though its claims administrator, American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. (First Amended Complaint, Paras. 18 and 21.)

American Safety Insurance Services, Inc.'s office from which the underlying claim was administered, the employee(s) responsible for the handling of the underlying claim (e.g., Jean Fisher), and the business records which are relevant to the underlying claim, are all located in San Diego, California. (Fisher Dec., Paras. 3, 4, and 5.) American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. does not maintain an office or employees in Los Angeles, within the Central District of California. (Fisher Dec., Para. 6.) Accordingly, the alleged conduct of the Defendants in this matter occurred in San Diego, California. (First Amended Complaint, Para. 18 and 21.)

Many of these witnesses would find it difficult to travel from their residences for discovery and trial. In addition, this travel would increase costs for all parties to conduct discovery.

## C. The Interests of Justice Also Dictate Transferring This Action To the Southern District of California

In the present case, transfer will prevent a waste of time and money because the offices, documents, and employees of Defendant's claim administrator American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. are located in San Diego, in the Southern District of California. The costs to the Defendants and local witnesses would be reduced by litigating the case in San Diego.

Moreover, the parties are currently litigating another equitable contribution dispute in San Diego, which Plaintiff recently commenced. (See Exhibit "1" to Fisher Dec.) Plaintiff's filing of the other contribution action against ASIC in San Diego, California is a concession that San Diego is the proper jurisdiction

for such litigation between the parties. The presence of related litigation in a forum is relevant to determining the "interests of justice." <u>Black and Decker Corp. v. Vermont American Corp.</u>, 915 F.Supp. 933 (N.D. Ill. 1995).

Further, unlike the case at bar, the other contribution action referenced immediately above does not arise out of an underlying construction defect action venued in California, but rather from underlying actions litigated in the states of Oregon and Washington. (Fisher Dec., Para. 7.)

Based on the foregoing, transferring this action to the Southern District of California will promote justice through preventing the waste of time and money, and by allowing easier access to proof.

## D. <u>Plaintiff's Choice of Forum is Not Entitled to Deference In This Case</u>

Although in certain cases courts give some weight to a plaintiff's choice of forum (Lewis v. ACB Business Services, Inc., 135 F.3d 389, 413 (6th Cir. 1998)), the significance given to plaintiff's choice of forum is substantially decreased when, as is the case herein, plaintiff has commenced an action in a forum that is not his or her residence. New Image, Inc. v. Travelers Indem. Co., 536 F.Supp. 58, 59 (E.D.Pa. 1981). If a non-resident plaintiff can be offered an equally convenient forum, the initial choice of forum will be afforded even less deference. Reiffin v. Microsoft Corp., 104 F.Supp.2d 48, 52 (D.D.C. 2000).

In the present case, Plaintiff commenced this action in California, which is not its residence, and thus its choice of forum is entitled to less deference. As Plaintiff is a Nebraska corporation, the Southern District of California provides a forum equally convenient in which to litigate this action.

## V. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

All of the factors that the Court should address in considering this motion weigh in favor of this matter proceeding in the Southern District of California rather than in the Central District. The case lacks sufficient ties to the Central

**DATED:** March 17, 2008

District of California, and the Southern District of California is the forum most appropriate and convenient to Defendants and witnesses, and equally convenient to Plaintiff, which has already submitted to jurisdiction there in another matter between the parties.

Accordingly, Defendant ASIC requests that the Court grant this motion to transfer this action to the Southern District Court for convenience pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1404(a).

Respectfully submitted,

Law Offices of David S. Blau

By:

David S. Blau David M. Morrow Attorney for Defendant

American Safety Indemnity Company

1.M.

### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

Acceptance Insurance Co. v. American Safety Risk Retention Group, Inc., et al.

United States District Court Case No.

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 6080 Center Drive, Suite 210, Los Angeles, California 90045.

On March 17, 2008, I served the foregoing documents described as **DEFENDANT AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO TRANSFER FOR CONVENIENCE; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES [28 U.S.C. 1404(a)]** on the interested parties in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in the sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

### SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

- [X] BY MAIL: I deposited such envelope in the mail at Los Angeles, California. The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.
- [ ] BY PERSONAL DELIVERY: I delivered such envelope by hand to the offices of the addressee.
- VIA FACSIMILE: I caused all of the pages of the above entitled document to be sent to the recipients noted above via electronic transfer (FAX) at the respective facsimile number(s) indicated above. This document was transmitted by facsimile and transmission reported complete without error.
- [X] FEDERAL: I certify or declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose discretion the service was made.

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with U.S. Postal Service on that same day in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postal meter date is more than 1 day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

Executed on March 17, 2008 at Los Angeles, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

ea Powell

PROOF OF SERVICE

1 2 3 4	David S. Blau (Bar No. 166825) David M. Morrow (Bar No. 175776) Law Offices of David S. Blau, P.C. 6080 Center Drive, Suite 210 Los Angeles, California 90045 (310) 410-1900 phone (310) 410-1901 fax david@blaulaw.net		
5 6	Attorneys for Defendant American Safety Indemnity Company	•	
7			
8	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT	
9	FOR THE CENTRAL DIS	STRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
0			
1	ACCEPTANCE INSURANCE	Case No. CV08-01577 GPS (AGRx)	
2	COMPANY,	DECLARATION OF JEAN FISHER IN SUPPORT DEFENDANT	
3	Plaintiff,	AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY'S MOTION TO	
4	vs.	TRANSFER FOR CONVENIENCE [28 U.S.C. 1404(a)]	
.5	AMERICAN SAFETY RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC., and	Filed and Served Concurrently With	
6	AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY,	Memorandum of Points and Authorities]	
7	Defendants.	Date: April 14, 2008 Time: 1:30 p.m.	
8			
9	DECLARATION	OF JEAN FISHER	
20	I, Jean Fisher, declare as follows:		
21	1. I am an attorney, duly admitte	ed to practice before all of the Courts	
22	of the State of California, and am er	mployed by American Safety	
23	Insurance Services, Inc., in its office	e located in San Diego, California.	
24	American Safety Insurance Services	s, Inc. administers claims on behalf of	
25	Defendant AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY ("ASIC") in		
26	connection with liability policies issu	ed by ASIC. I have personal	
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	DECLARATION OF JEAN FISHER IN SUPPORT	OF MOTION TO TRANSFER FOR CONVENIENCE	

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Page 2 of 3

L	knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called upon as a witness,
2	could and would testify competently as to all such matters under oath.

- 2. This Declaration is made in support of Defendant ASIC's Motion to Transfer For Convenience.
- 3. As an attorney for American Safety Insurance Services, Inc., I have 5
- served as CD Claims Manager and Corporate Claims Counsel. My duties 6
- and responsibilities for American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. have 7
- included oversight of all litigation naming ASIC, and I have under my control
- the business records relating to litigation brought against ASIC. I have also
- served as the person at American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. 10
- principally responsible for overseeing the investigation and disposition of 11
- the tenders of construction defect claims against ASIC and its insureds, and 12
- I assumed control of the file of Bay Area Construction Framers ("Bay Area") 13
- in connection with the underlying construction defect lawsuit entitled Portola 14
- Meadows Townhomes Assoc. v. Davidon Homes, et al., Superior Court of 15
- the State of California for the County of Alameda, Case No. V-020385-4 16
- (the "Portola action"). 17
- 4. The claims against ASIC's insured, Bay Area, which arose out of 18
- the Portola action, have been administered though American Safety 19
- Insurance Services, Inc.'s San Diego, California office since June 2005. I 20
- as well as our construction defect adjusters are located in San Diego, 21
- California. 22
- American Safety Insurance Services, Inc.'s business and claim 5. 23
- records relevant to the underlying claim against Bay Area are maintained 24
- in American Safety Insurance Services, Inc.'s office in San Diego, 25
- California. 26

1	6. American Safety Insurance Services, Inc. does not maintain an
2	office or employees in the County of Los Angeles.
3	7. My duties and responsibilities also include oversight of another
4	equitable contribution action brought by Plaintiff Acceptance Insurance
5	Company against ASIC, and currently being litigated, in San Diego,
6	California entitled Acceptance Insurance Company v. American Safety
7	Indemnity Company, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2008-
8	00077126-CU-IC-CTL. That contribution action arises out of one
9.	underlying construction defect lawsuit venued in the state of Oregon
10	entitled Kelley Creek Estates Townhome Owners Association v. D.R.
11	Horton, et al., and a second underlying construction defect lawsuit venued
12	in the state of Washington entitled Springville Condominium Owners
13	Association v. D.R. Horton, et al. Attached hereto as Exhibit "1" is a true
14	and correct copy of the Complaint filed on February 1, 2008, in San Diego
15	Superior Court Case No. 37-2008-00077126-CU-IC-CTL, which was
16	served on ASIC on February 7, 2008. In that action, Acceptance contends
17	San Diego is the appropriate venue and jurisdiction based on the ASIS
18	office.
19	Executed this 17th day of March 2008 at San Diego, California.
20	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the States of
21	California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and
22	correct.
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24	flerstehe
25	JEAN FISHER
26	
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Exhibit 1

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF; EQUITABLE CONTRIBUTION AND INDEMNITY

Document 6-4

Filed 03/17/2008

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Case 3:08-cv-01057-J-WMC

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- 3. The true names and/or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, coconspirators or otherwise, of defendants Does 1 - 100, inclusive, are unknown to plaintiff, and plaintiff therefore sues these defendants by said fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek to amend this complaint to show the true names and/or capacities of these defendants when this information has been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of the defendants designated herein as Doe is legally responsible and liable in some actionable manner for the incidents, circumstances, events and/or happenings referred to herein and proximately caused the damages suffered by plaintiff as alleged herein, and/or is subject to relief sought by plaintiff.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that all times mentioned herein, each defendant, including those named fictitiously herein, in addition to acting for himself, herself, or itself and on his, her or its own behalf individually, are and were acting as the agent, servant, employee, representative, principal, partner, associate, joint venturer and/or co-conspirator of, and with a knowledge, consent and permission of, each and all of the other of said defendants and therein the course, scope and authority of said agency, service, employment, representation, partnership, association, joint venture, or conspiracy.

#### THE UNDERLYING ACTIONS

#### a. The Kelly Creek Action.

5. One of the underlying actions at issue herein concerns a construction defect action filed by the Kelly Creek Estates Townhome Owners Association against several parties, including an entity known as Schuler Homes of Oregon, Inc. ("Schuler"). That action is styled Kelley Creek Estates Townhome Owners Assn. v. D.R. Horton, et al. ("Kelly Creek Action"). The plaintiffs in the Kelly Creek Action alleged numerous construction defects, and resulting property damage, to a 45 unit condominium complex, constructed in full or in part by Schuler between 1999 and 2002, and further alleged that Schuler was responsible, in full or in part, for said alleged damage.

#### b. The Springville Condo Action.

The second underlying action at issue herein concerns a construction defect action 6. filed by the Springville Condominium Owners Association against several parties, including Schuler.

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That action is styled Springville Condominium Owners Association v. D.R. Horton, et al. ("Springville Action"). The plaintiffs in the Springville Action alleged numerous construction defects, and resulting property damage, to a 71 unit condominium complex, constructed in full or in part by Schuler between 1999 and 2002, and further alleged that Schuler was responsible, in full or in part, for said alleged damage.

The instant lawsuit concerns a dispute relating to the recovery of defense costs and fees incurred, in the Kelly Creek Action and the Springville Action.

#### POLICIES AT ISSUE AND TENDERS BY SCHULER

- 8. Plaintiff issued Schuler insurance policy number CL20400131 covering the policy period of July 1, 1999 to July 1, 2000 ("Acceptance Policy").
- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that American Safety issued Schuler insurance policy number ESL001427-00-01 covering the policy period of July 1, 2000 to August 1, 2001.
- 10. Schuler tendered the Kelly Creek Action and the Springville Action to Acceptance and American Safety, and Acceptance provided a defense to Schuler in both. Acceptance contributed \$71,045.86 toward Schuler's defense in the Kelly Creek Action. Acceptance contributed \$227,553.48 toward Schuler's defense in the Springville Action. To date, American Safety has not contributed any amount toward Schuler's defense in either the Kelly Creek Action or the Springville Action, notwithstanding its agreement to do so.
- 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendants' policy provided insurance coverage (or at least potentially covered) to Schuler for the property damage alleged against Schuler in both the Kelly Creek Action and the Springville Action, and further provide that defendants, and each of them, had a duty to defend any claim or suit, including arbitration proceedings, seeking those damages. Moreover, defendants admitted that they had an obligation to defend Schuler in both actions. All conditions precedent to the duty of American Safety to defend have been satisfied either through compliance or substantial compliance by Schuler.
- 12. Plaintiff has paid defense fees and/or costs in connection with the Kelly Creek Action and the Springville Action, and did not do so as a volunteer.

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- Plaintiff has demanded that defendants, and each of them, contribute their respective 13. fairly apportioned share of the fees and costs incurred and/or paid in providing a defense to Schuler in the Kelly Creek Action and the Springville Action; however, to date, defendants have failed and refused to do so.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges that any obligation or liability it may have under its policy is subject to the limitations of liability, conditions, exclusions and other provisions of said insurance policy

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaratory Relief Against all Defendants)

- Plaintiff realleges, and herein incorporates, paragraphs 1-14, inclusive, as though the 15. allegations of those paragraphs are set forth in full herein.
- There is at present a controversy between plaintiff and defendants as follows: 16. plaintiff contends that defendants, and each of them, have failed to pay the full amount of their fair share of the defense fees and costs incurred on Schuler's behalf in the Kelly Creek and Springville Actions. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that defendants, and each of them, contend otherwise. Defendant contends that its policy has an SIR that can only be satisfied if payment is made by the insured directly to the Defendant. Plaintiff contends that the SIR can be satisfied either by payment directly to the Defendant, or by payment directly to defense counsel. Plaintiff contends that the SIR was satisfied and Defendant contends it was not satisfied.
- Accordingly, Plaintiff requests that this Court declare that the defendants, and each of 17. them, are obligated to reimburse Plaintiff for said defendants' fair share of the defense fees and costs incurred on Schuler's behalf in the Kelly Creek and Springville Actions, and that this Court issue a judicial determination of the rights and duties of the parties with respect to each insurer's share of the defense of the Kelly Creek and Springville Actions, according to an allocation to be determined by the Court.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Equitable Contribution Against All Defendants)

Plaintiff realleges, and herein incorporates, paragraphs 1-17, inclusive, as though the 18. allegations of those paragraphs are set forth in full herein.

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fees and costs incurred in the Kelly Creek and Springville Actions;

For a judicial determination that apportions or allocates among the parties the defense

Document 6-4

Filed 03/17/2008

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Case 3:08-cv-01057-J-WMC

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CASE NUMBER: 37-2008-00077126-CU-IC-CTL

CASE TITLE: Acceptance Insurance Company vs. American Safety Indemr

### NOTICE TO LITIGANTS/ADR INFORMATION PACKAGE

You are required to serve a copy of this Notice to Litigants/ADR Information Package and a copy of the blank Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process (received from the Civil Business Office at the time of filing) with a copy of the Summons and Complaint on all defendants in accordance with San Diego Superior Court Rule 2.1.5; Division II and CRC Rule 201.9.

#### **ADR POLICY**

It is the policy of the San Diego Superior Court to strongly support the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR") in all and alternative dispute resolution options for amenable and eligible cases. The use of ADR will be discussed affall. Case of the mediation or arbitration programs or other available private ADR options as a mechanism for case settlement before trials across the settlement across the settlement before trials across the settlement across the settlement across the settlement across the settlement across the s

#### ADR OPTIONS

1) CIVIL MEDIATION PROGRAM: The San Diego Superior Court Civil Mediation Program is designed to assist parties of with the early resolution of their dispute. All general civil independent calendar cases, including construction defection complex and eminent domain cases are eligible to participant in the program. Limited civil collection cases/are not eligible at this time. San Diego Superior Court Local Rule 2.31, Division II addresses this program specifically. Mediation is a Superior non-binding process in which a trained mediator 1) facilitates communication between disputants, and 2) assists parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution of all or part of their dispute. In this process, the mediatoricarefully explores not only the relevant evidence and law, but also the parties' underlying interests, needs and priorities. The mediatorism not the decision-maker and will not resolve the dispute – the parties do. Mediation is a flexible, informal and confidential process that is less stressful than a formalized trial. It can also save time and money, allow for greater dient-participation and allow for more flexibility in creating a resolution.

Assignment to Mediation, Cost and Timelines: Parties may stipulate to mediation at any time up to the EMC or may stipulate to mediation at the CMC. Mediator fees and expenses are split equally by the parties, unless otherwise agreed. Mediators on the court's approved panel have agreed to the court's payment schedule for county-referred mediation: \$150.00 per hour for each of the first two hours and their individual rate per hour thereafter. Parties may select any mediator, however, the court maintains a panel of court-approved mediators who have satisfied panel requirements and who must adhere to ethical standards. All court-approved mediator fees and other policies are listed in the Mediator Directory at each court location to assist parties with selection. Discovery: Parties do not need to conduct full discovery in the case before mediation is considered, utilized or referred. Attendance at Mediation: Trial counsel, parties and all persons with full authority to settle the case must personally attend the mediation, unless excused by the court for good cause.

2) JUDICIAL ARBITRATION: Judicial Arbitration is a binding or non-binding process where an arbitrator applies the law to the facts of the case and issues an award. The goal of judicial arbitration is to provide parties with an adjudication that is earlier, faster, less formal and less expensive than trial. The arbitrator's award may either become the judgment in the case if all parties accept or if no trial de novo is requested within the required time. Either party may reject the award and request a trial de novo before the assigned judge if the arbitration was non-binding. If a trial de novo is requested, the trial will usually be scheduled within a year of the filing date.

Assignment to Arbitration, Cost and Timelines: Parties may stipulate to binding or non-binding judicial arbitration or the judge may order the matter to arbitration at the case management conference, held approximately 150 days after filing, if a case is valued at under \$50,000 and is "at issue". The court maintains a panel of approved judicial arbitrators who have practiced law for a minimum of five years and who have a certain amount of trial and/or arbitration experience. In addition, if parties select an arbitrator from the court's panel, the court will pay the arbitrator's fees. Superior Court

SDSC CIV-730 (Rev 12-06) Page: 1

- 3) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES: The goal of a settlement conference is to assist the parties in their efforts to negotiate a settlement of all or part of the dispute. Parties may, at any time, request a settlement conference before the judge assigned to their case; request another assigned judge or a pro tem to act as settlement officer; or may privately utilize the services of a retired judge. The court may also order a case to a mandatory settlement conference prior to trial before the court's assigned Settlement Conference judge.
- 4) OTHER VOLUNTARY ADR: Parties may voluntarily stipulate to private ADR options outside the court system including private binding arbitration, private early neutral evaluation or private judging at any time by completing the "Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process" which is included in this ADR package. Parties may also utilize mediation services offered by programs that are partially funded by the county's Dispute Resolution Programs Act. These services are available at no cost or on a sliding scale based on need. For a list of approved DRPA providers, please contact the County's DRPA program office at (619) 238-2400.

医原理 出口 ADDITIONAL ADR INFORMATION: For more information about the Civil Mediation Program, please contact the Civil . 3 - 3 Mediation Department at (619) 515-8908. For more information about the Judicial Arbitration Program; please contact (619) 515-8908. enthe Arbitration Office at (619) 531-3818. For more information about Settlement Conferences, please contact the The of ADIIndependent Calendar department to which your case is assigned Please note that staff can only discuss ADR options a specie sand cannot give legal advice. പരം പരാധ നാണ്ട് അത്തേഷണ വാധിക്കുന്നത്. പരിച്ച വരുന്ന വിശ്യാര്യക്ക് അത്ര an themselve Tokkerpotament restricting of the latter and Anale precision for the late of the late of the local temperature of the late of

#### ACR CITATORS

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SA	AN DIEGO	FOR COURT USE ONLY
STREET ADDRESS: 330 West Broadway		
MAILING ADDRESS: 330 West Broadway	•	
CITY STATE, & ZIP CODE: San Diego, CA 92101-3827		
BRANCH NAME: Central	•	
PLAINTIFF(S): Acceptance Insurance Company		
DEFENDANT(S): American Safety Indemnity Company		
SHORT TITLE: ACCEPTANCE INSURANCE COMPA	NY VS. AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMN	ITY COMPANY
STIPULATION TO ALTERNATIVE DISPL (CRC 3.2		CASE NUMBER: 37-2008-00077126-CU-IC-CTL
	1 113 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 Depa	ortmont C-75
Judger Richard E. D. Strauss		half to an invested to the following alternative dis
The parties and their attorneys stipulate that the matter in resolution process. Selection of any of these options will	s at issue and the claims in this action s not delay any case management time-	ines.
Court-Referred Mediation Program	ぶっさ しゅうぶけい けんさんけんしゅがん かいしき ディーデース	-Ordered Nonbinding Arbitration
	and the second of the second o	-Ordered Binding Arbitration (Stipulated)
Private Neutral Evaluation	Name -	
Private Mini-Trial	Priva	te Reference to General Referee
Private Summary Jury Trial	Priva	te Reference to Judge
District Culture of Conference with Bringto Na		te Binding Arbitration
Private Settlement Conference with Private Neu	utral et us es ∐o Priva	
Other (specify):		A STATE OF THE STA
It is also stipulated that the following shall serve as arbit	rater, modicifor or other neutral: (Name	A service of the serv
It is also supulated that the lollowing shall serve as along	nator, mediator of other neutral (verne	
Alternator (modiation & orbitration anhi)		
Alternate: (mediation & arbitration only)		
Alternate: (mediation & arbitration only)  Date:		
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Date:	Date:	refendant
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Date:	Date:	pefendant
Date:  Name of Plaintiff	Date:Name of D	pefendant
Date:  Name of Plaintiff	Date:Name of E	pefendant Defendant's Attorney
Date:  Name of Plaintiff  Signature	Date:Name of E	
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	Date:	
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	Date:  Name of E  Signature  Signature	pefendant's Attorney
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	Date:  Name of E  Signature  Signature	pefendant's Attorney
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	Date:  Name of E  Signature  Name of E  Signature  y). It is the duty of the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to not will place this matter on a	nefendant's Attorney he court of any settlement pursuant to California 45-day dismissal calendar.
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney  Signature  (Attach another sheet if additional names are necessar Rules of Court, 3.1385. Upon notification of the settlem	Date:  Name of E  Signature  Name of E  Signature  y). It is the duty of the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to not will place this matter on a	pefendant's Attorney he court of any settlement pursuant to California 45-day dismissal calendar.
Name of Plaintiff  Signature  Name of Plaintiff's Attorney  Signature  (Attach another sheet if additional names are necessar Rules of Court, 3.1385. Upon notification of the settlem No new parties may be added without leave of court and the settlem.	Date:  Name of E  Signature  Name of E  Signature  y). It is the duty of the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to notify the parties to not will place this matter on a	nefendant's Attorney he court of any settlement pursuant to Californi 45-day dismissal calendar.

SDSC CIV-359 (Rev 01-07)

NOTICE OF	CASE ASSIGNMENT	37-2008-0	ER: 0077126-C	U-IC-CTL
ACCEPTANCE INSURANCE COMPANY	VS. AMERICAN SAFETY INDEMNITY COMPANY			
DEFENDANT(S) / RESPONDENT(S): Ame	erican Safety Indemnity Company		-	All of the second
PLAINTIFF(S) / PETITIONER(S): Acc	eptance Insurance Company			
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (619) 685-6148				
CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Diego, CA 92101  BRANCH NAME: Central	કે ર			
MAILING ADDRESS: 330 West Broadway	·			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, CO STREET ADDRESS: 330 West Broadway	UNTY OF SAN DIEGO			

Judge: Richard E. L. Strauss

Department: C-75

and the second second

COMPLAINT/PETITION FILED: 02/01/2008

## CASES ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL AND ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION

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IT IS THE DUTY OF EACH PLAINTIFF (AND CROSS-COMPLAINANT) TO SERVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE WITH A CARRY THE COMPLAINT (AND CROSS-COMPLAINT).

ALL COUNSEL WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN 1. BE EXPECTED TO BE EXPECTED.

TIME STANDARDS: The following timeframes apply to general civil cases and must be adhered to unless you flave the decided requested and been granted an extension of time. General civil consists of all cases except: Small claims appeals; recorded a petitions, and unlawful detainers.

COMPLAINTS: Complaints must be served on all named defendants, and a CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE (SDSC:CIV-) 345), filed within 60 days of filing. This is a mandatory document and may not be substituted by the filing of any 345 other document.

DEFENDANT'S APPEARANCE: Defendant must generally appear within 30 days of service of the complaint. (Plaintiff may stipulate to no more than a 15 day extension which must be in writing and filed with the Court.)

**DEFAULT:** If the defendant has not generally appeared and no extension has been granted, the plaintiff must request default within 45 days of the filling of the Certificate of Service.

THE COURT ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONSIDER UTILIZING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO LITIGATION, INCLUDING MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION, PRIOR TO THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. MEDIATION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS ACT AND OTHER PROVIDERS. SEE ADR INFORMATION PACKET AND STIPULATION.

YOU MAY ALSO BE ORDERED TO PARTICIPATE IN ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO CCP 1141.10 AT THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. THE FEE FOR THESE SERVICES WILL BE PAID BY THE COURT IF ALL PARTIES HAVE APPEARED IN THE CASE AND THE COURT ORDERS THE CASE TO ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO CCP 1141.10. THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOU FILE FORM SDSC CIV-359 PRIOR TO THAT HEARING

<i>(</i> 24	SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICI	AL) CNAL	FILE D BUSINESS OFFISE PARA NTRA DIVISION	RT USE ONLY USO DE LA CORTE)
NOTICE TO DEFENDA (AVISO AL DEMANDA	(DO):	2850	EER LI A H: NT	
AMERICAN SAFET	Y INDEMNITY COMP	ANY, a foreign comor	ation	
and DOES 1-100		CLERI SAN	Y-SUPERIOR COURT DIEGO COUNTY, CA	
YOU ARE BEING SUE	D BY PLAINTIFF: NDO EL DEMANDANTE):			
Acceptance Insurance	Company, a Nebraska o	corporation		-
<u> </u>	R DAYS after this summons an			
nearest you. If you cannot lose the case by default, a There are other legal re attorney referral service. If program. You can locate the Courts Online Self-Help Courts Order of the esta corte y fracer que escrito tiene que estar en pueda usar para su respueda usar para su respueda usar para su respuede pagar la cuota de product pagar la cuota de product pagar la cuota de product de remisión a abolegales gratuitos de un procedifornia Legal Services.	here may be a court form that y in Courts Online Self-Help Cent it pay the filing fee, ask the cound your wages, money, and proquirements. You may want to cyou cannot afford an attorney, nese nonprofit groups at the Caster (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self.NDARIO después de que le em se entregue una copia al deman formato legal correcto si desea esta. Puede encontrar estos foca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la esentación, pida al secretario deservación, pida al secretario deservación. Si no puede pagar a un grama de servicios legales sin (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en help/espanol/) o poniéndose er he court is:	ter (www.courlinfo.ca.govise) rt clerk for a fee waiver form. rt clerk for a fee waiver form. perty may be taken without i all an aftorney right away? If y you may be eligible for free l lifornia Legal Services Web s fhelp), or by contacting your treguen esta citación y papel dante. Una carta o una llami que procesen su caso en la u rmularios de la corte y más i biblioteca de leyes de su co fe la corte que le de un forme miento y la corte le podrá qu me a un abogado inmediatan abogado, es posible que cu fines de lucro. Puede encon fines de lucro. Puede encon	fhelp), your county law librat If you do not file your respondent warning from the county ou do not know an altorney, egal services from a nonprofeite (www.lawhelpcalifornia.olocal court or county bar asses legales para presentar unada telefonica no lo protegen corte. Es posible que haya unformación en el Centro de Andado o en la corte de le qui lario de exerción de pago de itar su sueldo, dinero y biene nente. Si no conoce a un aboute la California in fines de ordes la California in fines de ordes la California in	y, or the courthouse onse on time, you may t you may want to call an it legal services rg), the California octiation. It respuests por escrito Surespuests por n formulario que usted yuda de las Cories de ede más cerca. Si no e cuotas. Si no presenta es sin más advertencia. gado, puede llamar a un
(El nombre y dirección de la San Diego Superior C	a corte es):		CASE NUMBER: (Numero del 2008-00077	126-CU-IC-CTL
330 West Broadway			<u> </u>	
El nombre, la dirección y e Michael C. Olson, Lav	lephone number of plaintiffs a I número de teléfono del abog v Office of Michael C. O	rado del demandante, o del Ison, P.C.,	demandante que no tiene a	•
	Ste 270, Newport Beach		42-8940 G. Selinsky	'
DATE: FLB (Fecha)	0 1 2008	Clerk, by (Secretario)		, Deputy (Adjunto)
For proof of service of this Para prueba de entrega de <sub>[SEAL]</sub>	1 as an individua	ce of Summons (form POS- percent of Service of Summon ON SERVED: You are service defendant. Sued under the fictitious named the service of Service Service of Service	ons, <i>(POS-010)).</i> ed	mpany, a foretyn ar
	under. CCP 4	16.10 (corporation) 16.20 (defunct corporation)	CCP 416.60 CCP 416.70	(minor)

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SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)	FILE TORGOURT USEDNLY  LE BUSINISOLO PARA USED DE LA CORTE)  CENTRAL CIVISION
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):	B FB - I A H: 0T
and DOES 1-100	ERK-SUPERIOR COURT IN DIEGO COUNTY, CA
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):	,
Acceptance Insurance Company, a Nebraska corporation	
court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), y nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further we have a country to the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further we have case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further we have case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further we have case by default, and your and property may be taken without further we have case by default, and you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal ser program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by confacting your locat come of the context of the contex	cour county law library, or the courthouse do not file your response on time, you may training from the court.  toot know an attorney, you may want to call an vices from a nonprofit legal services what whelp california org), the California out or county bar association.  The spara presentar una respuesta por escrito fonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por es posible que haya un formulario que usted ión en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un nos requisitos para obtener servicios os grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California, e abogados locales.
	CASE NUMBER: Número del Casoj:
330 West Broadway	37-2008-00077126-CU-IC-CTL
San Diego, California 92101  The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorned in the second se	dante que no tiene abogado, es):
DATE: Clerk, by	, Deputy
(Secretario) For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)	(Adjunto)
Para prueba de entrega de esta citatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (Po	OS-010)).
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served	
as an individual defendant.  2 as the person sued under the fictitious name of (st	oecify):
3. on behalf of (specify):	
under: CCP 416.10 (corporation)  CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)  CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)	CCP 416.60 (minor) CCP 416.70 (conservatee) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California SUM-100 [Rev. January 1, 2004]

Code of Civil Procedure §§ 412.20, 465

other (specify): by personal delivery on (date):

PROOF OF SERVICE

after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.